

### C. Remarks

The claims are 1-8, with claim 1 being the sole independent claims. Claim 1 has been amended to further define the invention; specifically, claim 1 has been amended to set forth that the input line is provided with an electrostatic protective element. This amendment is supported in the specification and in each of Figs. 1, 6 and 7; accordingly, no new matter has been added. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 6-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Imanaka (U.S. Patent No. 6,243,111). Claims 3-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Imanaka in view of Ghozeil (U.S. Patent No. 6,375,295). Applicants respectfully traverse those rejections.

First, Applicants note that all previous arguments delineating the differences between the presently claimed invention and the cited Imanaka reference are incorporated by reference herein; Imanaka's CR integration circuit is clearly different from the logic circuit of the present invention. Second, Applicants would like to address Imanaka's further deficiency in its failure to disclose or suggest the new feature of claim 1. More particularly, Imanaka does not disclose or suggest the provision of an electrostatic protective element for the input line. On the other hand, according to the present invention, such an electrostatic protective element is required. Accordingly, Imanaka cannot anticipate the present invention, as it fails to disclose the electrostatic protective element employed therein.

Ghozeil does not remedy the deficiencies of Imanaka. In fact, Ghozeil is cited for its disclosure related to CMOS inverters of even number stages arranged serially. Ghozeil, not unlike Imanaka, does not disclose or suggest the electrostatic protective

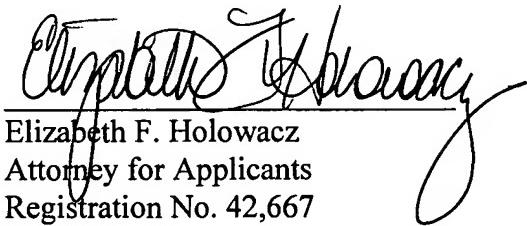
element as set forth in claim 1. Accordingly, no combination of Imanaka and Ghozeil renders the present invention obvious.

It is clear that neither of the cited references, whether considered alone or in combination, anticipates or renders obvious the present invention. There is simply no teaching of a key feature of the present invention, namely the provision of an electrostatic protective element with the input line, as required in claim 1 of the present application. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the prior art rejections.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance. Its entry is therefore believed proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection, as an earnest attempt to advance prosecution, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Elizabeth F. Holowacz  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 42,667

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112-3801  
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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